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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/2/02 6:44pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

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To whom it may concern:

I have been employed in the Information Technology industry for just over two decades. Prior to Microsoft Windows and Office becoming popular, the industry was dominated by another company who delivered excellent products and services. It was a company that epitomized the "Made in America" slogan even before it became fashionable. That company was and still is a great company. It was also the subject of an antitrust suit before such suits were seen as sources of income and revenue by litigants and their representatives. That company is named IBM and it agreed to operate under a consent decree for its good and the good of America.

I am also a Microsoft shareholder. I am an expert in the industry and elected to purchase Microsoft shares because I saw in Microsoft a company that embodied the spirit of American innovation and business leadership. I admire the company's leadership and their commitment to constantly providing more product capabilities at a good value-for-dollar.

Microsoft's products became predominant in the industry not because of an abuse of market share but because Microsoft provided the best products. I personally worked with almost all of the IBM mainframe operating systems and products. I also personally worked with almost all the various Unix and PC operating systems, development tools and desktop products. Microsoft consistently provided products that met or exceeded industry expectations.

I believe that the States are being motivated by the possibility of large settlements similar to those of the Tobacco industry. The Microsoft competitors who are trying to extract a harsher penalty are those who cannot compete in the market and therefore must resort to the government and the courts. I was a Unix systems programmer and I must tell you that Windows was always and is today far easier to work with and configure than any Sun configuration; take a look at the cost difference between Sun administrators and Windows 2000 administrators. You will find that everything in the Sun Solaris market space to be more expensive. I was also an Oracle database designer. We used to joke about Oracle. We said that Oracle ran on everything but did not run well on anything. Oracle gained market share because it had little competition in its market space. I would offer that the companies who are lobbying against a Microsoft settlement are all suffering from Gates envy. The CEO's of Sun and Oracle disgust me by their petty words and actions; I am also an Oracle shareholder.

Microsoft is a great company and it is also a monopoly. The DOJ should apply restrictions and monitor the company so that it cannot use its monopoly position to gain unfair advantage. Microsoft does have the right to compete aggressively. This is after all, America.

It is also interesting to note that because Microsoft is the current legal target of the aforementioned competitors that they and the DOJ are neglecting another monopoly company; IBM. IBM has no competition in the mainframe market space. Such competition ended with the demise of Amdahl. I would offer that both Sun and Oracle are beginning to take note of IBM because of the inroads that it is making into their market share. I would also suggest that they will shortly come crying to the DOJ and stating that IBM is competing unfairly.

Truthfully, these are all great American companies. It shames me to watch them fight like children and then call their parents, the Government, when they fairly loose.

Microsoft deserves this settlement. America deserves this settlement. We need to maintain our preeminent position in the Global marketplace.

Thank you all for your hard work and perseverance. You have made me proud, once again, to be an American!

Gregory Markow